

DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0.8 SEP 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Appln. No: | To Be Assigned |
| Applicant: | Chie Hirai et al. |
| Filed: | Herewith |
| Title: | REFRIGERATOR |
| TC/A.U.: | |
| Examiner: | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

References JP 2001-165557 and JP 11-60758 are not in the English language, but an English abstract thereof is attached to the copy of the reference submitted herewith, and were cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of this English language search report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609A(3), second paragraph.

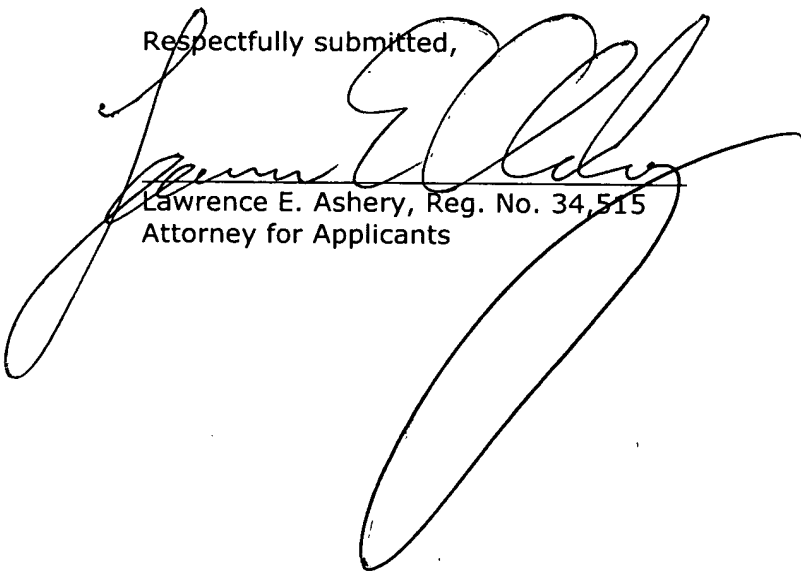
MAT-8596US

10/506760 PATENT

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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dlm
Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
(2) References
Search Report

Dated: September 8, 2004

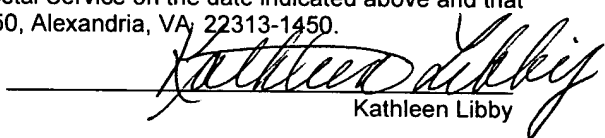
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Kathleen Libby

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | To Be Assigned |
| Filing Date | Herewith |
| First Named Inventor | Chie Hirai et al. |
| Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket No. | MAT-8596US |

SHEET 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | JP 2001-165557 (w/English abstract) | 6/22/2001 | Matsushita Refrigeration Co. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | JP 11-60758 (w/English abstract) | 3/5/1999 | Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Examiner
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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